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MANUFACTURING METHOD FOR LIQUID CRYSTAL PANEL AND SUBSTRATE STICKING DEVICE

[Abstract]

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PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a manufacturing method for a liquid crystal panel, by which manufacturing stages can be simplified and to provide a substrate sticking device used for the method.

SOLUTION: In a substrate sticking stage, a lower substrate 4 is attracted to a lower surface plate 2 through an elastic body 5 in which attracting holes 51 are formed with a pitch 52 which is integral multiple of a pitch 22 of an attracting grooves 21 of the lower surface plate 2. After the positioning of an upper and a lower substrates 3 and 4 is performed, the substrates are stuck to each other by

pressing the substrates through an upper surface plate 1 and the lower surface plate 2 to crush a sealing resin 6. Even if the surface working precision of the upper and the lower surface plates 1 and 2 is insufficient, sticking and uniform pressing of the upper and the lower substrates 3 and 4 can be simultaneously performed and a pressing stage for crushing the sealing resin, which has been conventionally needed after the substrate sticking stage, is not required and the manufacturing stages can be simplified.

[Claims]

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[Claim 1] A method for manufacturing a liquid crystal panel, comprising the steps of: applying sealing materials for attaching a pair of substrates on any one substrate of the pair of substrates and sealing the liquid crystal into the pair of substrates; attaching the substrates by way of pressing the sealing materials through vacuum absorbing any one substrate from the pair of substrates using a substrate attaching apparatus, which includes an upper base plate and a lower base plate, to an absorption surface provided with an absorption groove or absorption opening for the lower base plate via an elastic body having absorption opening between the substrates, and opposing and aligning the pair of substrates with vacuum absorbing the other substrate to an absorption surface of the upper base plate, and pressurizing the pair of substrates via the upper and lower base plates between the substrates; wherein a pitch of the absorption opening in the elastic body suppresses pressurization inequality of the pair of substrates resulted from the dynamic interference, which is produced from the position relationship between the absorption opening of the elastic body and the absorption groove or opening of the lower base plate with regard to the substrate attaching process, and the pitch is n times or 1/n times the pitch of the absorption groove or opening in the lower base plate, whereby n is an integral number.

[Claim 2] A method for manufacturing a liquid crystal panel, comprising the steps of: applying sealing materials for attaching a pair of substrates on any one substrate of the pair of substrates and sealing the liquid crystal into the pair of substrates; dropping desired amounts of liquid crystal materials on any one substrate from the pair of substrates; attaching the substrates by way of pressing

the sealing materials through vacuum absorbing any one substrate, on which the liquid crystal materials are dropped, from the pair of substrates using a substrate attaching apparatus, which includes an upper base plate and a lower base plate in a chamber, to an absorption surface provided with an absorption groove or absorption opening for the lower base plate, via an elastic body having absorption opening between the substrates, and opposing and aligning the pair of substrates with maintaining the vacuum degree of the chamber lower than the vacuum absorption power of the substrate in the chamber, and pressurizing the pair of substrates with interposing the upper and lower base plates between the substrates; wherein a pitch of the absorption opening in the elastic body suppresses pressurization inequality of the pair of substrates resulted from the dynamic interference, which is produced from the position relationship between the absorption opening of the elastic body and the absorption groove or opening of the lower base plate with regard to the substrate sticking process, and the pitch is n times or 1/n times a pitch of the absorption groove or opening in the lower base plate, whereby n is an integral number.

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[Claim 3] The method of Claim 2, wherein the vacuum degree of the vacuum absorption of the substrate formed by the upper and lower base plates in the substrate attaching process, is maintained below 0.1 ×1.33322×10² Pa, and the vacuum degree of the vacuum chamber is maintained from 0.5 ×1.33322×10² Pa to 1.0×1.33322×10² Pa.

[Claim 4] An Apparatus for attaching substrates, wherein the apparatus includes an upper and lower base plates provided with an absorption groove or opening at respective absorption surfaces of the substrates, a pair of substrates are absorbed to the upper and lower base plates so as to be maintained at

predetermined intervals thereby enabling position alignment, the pair of substrates can be pressurized via the upper and lower base plates between the substrates, an elastic body with an absorption opening is arranged incidentally to an absorption surface of the lower base plate, and a pitch of the absorption opening in the elastic body is n times or 1/n times a pitch of the absorption groove or opening of the lower base plate, whereby n is an integral number.

[Claim 5] The Apparatus of Claim 4, wherein the upper base plate and the lower base plate provided with the elastic body are arranged in the chamber, in which an inner pressure can be adjusted.

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[Title of the invention]

MANUFACTURING METHOD FOR LIQUID CRYSTAL PANEL AND SUBSTRATE STICKING DEVICE

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[001]

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[Field of the Invention]

The present invention relates to a method for manufacturing a liquid crystal panel and apparatus for sticking substrates using same.

10 [002]

[Description of the Prior Art] FIG. 3 shows a conventional schematic cross-sectional view of a sticking process in a manufacturing method for a liquid crystal panel. As shown in FIG. 3, in the conventional liquid crystal manufacturing process, sticking was performed after upper and lower substrates 3, 4 had been stuck directly in a vacuum circumstance on upper and lower base plates 1,2 to thereby align the upper and lower substrates 3, 4.

[003]

[Problems to be solved by the Invention] Although the degree of precision in cell gaps required for the liquid crystal panel is below ±0.3 µm for TN panel, and below ±0.05 µm for STN panel, the planar machining degree of precision of the upper and lower metallic base plates 1, 2 with regard to the above precision degree can not be expected more than ±20 µm. Accordingly, in the conventional sticking process of the substrates, it is impossible to press upper and lower substrates 3, 4 uniformly, and it is necessary to press the upper and lower substrates 3, 4 using separately prepared press after the above sticking process,

and to press sealing resins to a desired amounts, in order to obtain required degree of precision of the cell gaps. Thus, separate pressing process has been required to press sealing resins 6 after the conventional sticking process of the substrates.

[004] The object of the present invention is to provide a method for manufacturing a liquid crystal panel, in which simplification of the manufacturing process can be achieved, and an apparatus for sticking substrates using same.

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[Means for Solving the Problem] According to the method for manufacturing a liquid crystal panel described in claim 1, the method is characterized by comprising the steps of: applying sealing materials for sticking a pair of substrates on any one substrate of the pair of substrates and sealing the liquid crystal into the pair of substrates; sticking the substrates by way of pressing the sealing materials through vacuum absorbing any one substrate from the pair of substrates using a substrate sticking apparatus, which includes upper base plate and lower base plate, to an absorption surface provided with absorption groove or absorption opening for the lower base plate, via an elastic body having absorption opening between the substrates, and opposing and aligning the pair of substrates with vacuum absorbing the other substrate to an absorption surface of the upper base plate, and pressurizing the pair of substrates with interposing the upper and lower base plates between the substrates; wherein a pitch of the absorption opening in the elastic body suppresses pressurization inequality of the pair of substrates resulted from the dynamic interference, which is produced from the position relationship between the absorption opening of the elastic body and the absorption groove or opening of the lower base plate with

regard to the substrate sticking process, and the pitch is n(n is a integral number) times or 1/n times a pitch of the absorption groove or opening in the lower base plate.

[006] According to the manufacturing method of claim 1, the substrate sticking process is carried out by absorbing any one substrate to the lower base plate via the elastic body on which absorption opening is formed, and performing position alignment, and then pressing and sticking sealing materials between the pair of substrates. Although the planar machining degree of the upper and lower base plates is not sufficient, it is possible to pressurize them equally with sticking the pair of substrates simultaneously to thereby remove the pressurizing process for press the necessary sealing materials after the conventional substrate sticking process, and achieve simplification of the manufacturing process. In addition, as the pitch of the absorption opening in the elastic body is made to be n(n is a integral number) times or 1/n times the pitch of the absorption groove or opening in the lower base plate to thereby suppress pressurization inequality of the pair of substrates resulted from the dynamic interference, which is produced from the position relationship between the absorption opening of the elastic body and the absorption groove or opening of the lower base plate, and accomplish liquid crystal panel with equal cell gaps.

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[007] According to the method for manufacturing a liquid crystal panel described in claim 2, the method is characterized by comprising the steps of: applying sealing materials for sticking a pair of substrates on any one substrate of the pair of substrates and sealing the liquid crystal into the pair of substrates; dropping desired amounts of liquid crystal materials on any one substrate from the pair of substrates; sticking the substrates by way of pressing the sealing

materials through vacuum absorbing any one substrate, on which the liquid crystal materials are dropped, from the pair of substrates using a substrate sticking apparatus, which includes upper base plate and lower base plate in a chamber, to an absorption surface provided with absorption groove or absorption opening for the lower base plate, via an elastic body having absorption opening between the substrates, and opposing and aligning the pair of substrates with maintaining the vacuum degree of the chamber lower than the vacuum absorption force of the substrate in the chamber, and pressurizing the pair of substrates via the upper and lower base plates between the substrates; wherein a pitch of the absorption opening in the elastic body suppresses pressurization inequality of the pair of substrates resulted from the dynamic interference, which is produced from the position relationship between the absorption opening of the elastic body and the absorption groove or opening of the lower base plate with regard to the substrate sticking process, and the pitch is n(n is a integral number) times or 1/n times a pitch of the absorption groove or opening in the lower base plate.

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[008] According to the manufacturing method of claim 2, the substrate sticking process is carried out by absorbing any one substrate to the lower base plate via the elastic body on which absorption opening is formed, and performing position alignment, and then pressing and sticking sealing materials between the pair of substrates. Although the planar machining degree of the upper and lower base plates is not sufficient, it is possible to pressurize them equally with sticking the pair of substrates simultaneously to thereby remove the pressurizing process for press the necessary sealing materials after the conventional substrate sticking process, and achieve simplification of the manufacturing process. In addition, as

the pitch of the absorption opening in the elastic body is made to be n(n is a integral number) times or 1/n times the pitch of the absorption groove or opening in the lower base plate to thereby suppress pressurization inequality of the pair of substrates resulted from the dynamic interference, which is produced from the position relationship between the absorption opening of the elastic body and the absorption groove or opening of the lower base plate, and accomplish liquid crystal panel with equal cell gaps.

[009] According to the manufacturing method of the liquid crystal panel described in claim 3, the vacuum degree of the vacuum absorption of the substrate formed by the upper and lower base plates in the substrate sticking process, is preferable to be maintained below 0.1 ×1.33322×10² Pa, and the vacuum degree of the vacuum chamber is preferable to be maintained from 0.5 ×1.33322×10² Pa to 1.0×1.33322×10² Pa.

[0010] According to the apparatus for sticking substrates described in claim 4, the apparatus includes an upper and lower base plates provided with absorption groove or opening at respective absorption surfaces of the substrates, a pair of substrates are absorbed to the upper and lower base plates so as to be maintained at predetermined intervals thereby enabling position alignment, the pair of substrates can be pressurized via the upper and lower base plates between the substrates, incidentally an elastic body with an absorption opening is arranged to an absorption surface of the lower base plate, and a pitch of the absorption opening in the elastic body is n (n is integral number) times or 1/n times a pitch of the absorption groove or opening of the lower base plate.

[0011] By using the substrate sticking apparatus described in claim 4, it is possible to perform the substrate sticking process of claim 1 to thereby obtain simplification of the manufacturing process.

[0012] According to the apparatus described in claim 5, the upper base plate and the lower base plate provided with the elastic body are arranged in the chamber, in which inner pressure can be adjusted.

[0013] By using the substrate sticking apparatus described in claim 5, it is possible to perform the substrate sticking process of claim 2 or claim 3 to thereby obtain simplification of the manufacturing process.

[0014]

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[Embodiment of the Invention] The preferred embodiment of the present invention will now be explained with reference to the appended drawings. FIG. 1 is a schematic view showing substrates sticking process in a method for manufacturing a liquid crystal panel according to first embodiment of the present invention, wherein FIG.1(a) is a cross-sectional view, FIG. 1(b) is a planar view of the elastic body 5, and FIG. 1(c) is a planar view of a base plate 1. FIG. 2 is a schematic view showing sticking process of substrate in a method for manufacturing a liquid crystal panel according to the present invention. Further, FIG. 1 shows a case in which the filling of liquid crystal is performed by vacuum injection method, FIG. 2 shows a case in which it is performed by dropping of the liquid crystal.

[0015] Hereinafter, seven pairs of amorphous silicon TFT liquid crystal panels are manufactured for tests, with changing the manufacturing conditions, and comparisons are carried out.

[0016] First, seven pairs of TFT array substrate and color substrate, in which a panel having a size of 300 mm ×400 mm and 10. 4 inches is subjected to patterning on two surfaces, have been prepared, and cleaning, forming alignment film made of polyimide on the respective substrate, hardening, and desired rubbing have been performed.

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[0017] Next, spacer particles 7 made of resins and having particle diameter of 4.5 µm has been applied on the array substrate at a ratio of 100 ~ 200 per m², and ultra violet ray hardening type sealing resins 6, in which 2.0% glass fiber having a fiber length of 5.5 µm is mixed, are formed on a color filter by using screen printing. In this instance, patterns with injection opening have been formed on the first to fourth pairs of color filter substrates, and patterns without injection opening have been formed on the fifth to seventh pairs of the color filter substrates.

[0018] Sticking process has been carried out using the above seven pairs of array substrates and the color filter substrates as below.

[0019] First of all, initial pair of substrates has been stuck by conventional manufacturing method. As shown in FIG. 3, the color filter substrate has been absorbed to a lower base plate 2 as lower substrate 4, and the array substrate has been absorbed to the upper base plate 1 as upper substrate 3, then the upper and lower substrates 3, 4 are maintained at a predetermined intervals to align them, and then they have been stuck to each other.

[0020] Next, the stuck substrates have been withdrawn from the substrate sticking apparatus, and the sealing resins have been pressed by performing vacuum pack(pressurizing process), and then the sealing resins have been hardened by radiation of the ultra violet rays.

[0021] As shown in FIG. 1(a), those substrates selected from the second pair of color filter substrates to the fourth color filter substrates have been stuck through inserting elastic body 5 between the lower base plate 2 of the substrate sticking apparatus and the lower substrate 4. In this instance, the elastic body made of silicon rubber has a thickness of 1.2 mm, and the pitch 52 of an absorption hole 51 thereof shown in FIG. 1(b) is 6 mm, 10 mm, 24 mm respectively. Further, a pitch 22 of an absorption groove 21 formed at lower base plate 2 was 12 mm. Detailed description thereof will be made below.

as the lower substrate 4 via the elastic body 5, and the array substrate is vacuum absorbed on the upper base plate 1 as the upper substrate 3, and then maintain the upper and lower substrates 3, 4 at a predetermined distance to thereby align the positions thereof, and the sealing resins 6 were pressed sufficiently with the force of 1.5 tons after sticking the upper and lower substrates 3, 4 via the upper and lower base plates 1, 2. In this instance, it is necessary to form an absorption hole 51 at the elastic body 5, which is provided between the lower base plate 2 and the lower substrate 4, so that the upper and lower substrates 3, 4 can be maintained to its aligned position and the upper and lower base plates 1, 2 can be fixed by vacuum absorption. The pitches 52 of the absorption holes 51 formed at the elastic body 5, which have been utilized in the process of assembling the second, third, and fourth color filter substrates, were respectively 10 mm, 6 mm, and 24 mm.

[0023] Next, the stuck substrates (from the second to the fourth pair of substrates) were withdrawn from the sticking apparatus, and then the sealing resins 6 were hardened by radiation of the ultra violet rays.

[0024] Then, periphery portions of the above stuck substrates were sheared, and liquid crystal materials were filled by employing vacuum injection method, and then the injection opening were sealed to thereby manufacture a liquid crystal panel.

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[0025] Further, as shown in FIG. 2, the substrates selected from the fifth pair to the seventh pair were stuck, as were in the case of sticking the substrates selected from the second to fourth pair of substrates, via the elastic body 5 inserted between the lower base plate 2 of the substrate sticking apparatus and the lower substrate 4, after dropping liquid crystal materials 8 on the color filter substrate as water drops. Detailed description thereof will be made below. Also, the elastic body 5 and the lower base plate 2 shown in FIG. 2 are illustrated in FIGs. 1(b) and 1(c) in planar view.

[0026] The color filter substrate on which liquid crystal materials 8 have been dropped as water drops, is vacuum absorbed on the lower base plate 2 as the lower substrate 4 via the elastic body 5, and the array substrate is vacuum absorbed on the upper base plate 1 as the upper substrate 3, then vacuum absorption has been performed in a vacuum chamber 9 to form vacuum having vacuum degree of from 0.5 ×1.33322×10² Pa to 1.0×1.33322×10² Pa. In this instance, the vacuum degree of the vacuum absorption of the substrates by the upper and lower base plates 1,2 was below 0.1×1.33322 ×10² Pa.

[0027] Further, when the vacuum degree of the vacuum chamber 9 is less than 0.5 ×1.33322 ×10² Pa, the vacuum absorption force of the upper substrate 3 to the upper base plate 1 becomes insufficient, or the absorption force of the lower substrate 4 to the lower base plate 2 via the elastic body 5 becomes insufficient to thereby result in the dropping of the upper substrate 3 or misalignment of the

substrates. In addition, when the vacuum degree in the vacuum chamber 9 exceeds 1.0 ×1.33322 ×10² Pa, air drops will remain in the fabricated liquid crystal panel. Also, when the vacuum degree of the vacuum absorption in the substrate formed by the upper and the lower base plate 1,2 exceeds $0.1 \times 1.33322 \times 10^2 Pa$, the vacuum absorption force of the upper substrate 3 to the upper base plate 1 or the absorption force of the lower substrate 4 to the lower base plate 2 via the elastic body 5 becomes insufficient to thereby, as described above, result in the dropping of the upper substrate 3 or misalignment of the substrates. It is preferred that the vacuum absorption force of the substrates formed by the upper and lower base plates 1, 2 becomes closer to 0 Pa, and in principle it is best when the vacuum degree is 0 Pa, however, in actual there exists limitations in the possible vacuum degree due to design limitations of the pump operation part and the vacuum system, therefore, the critical vacuum degree in the present embodiment of the invention was 0.05×1.33322 ×10² Pa. Also, silicon rubber was utilized for the elastic body 5 in the present embodiment of the invention. As the porous elastic body may expand in openings, it cannot be employed. Further, materials having high elasticity coefficient (that is, solid materials) including a paper, are not preferred because the pressurization would be carried out unequally, so it is considered that materials having small elasticity coefficient are preferred as the elasticity body 5.

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[0028] With maintaining the vacuum chamber 9 at the vacuum degree explained above, position alignment of the upper and lower substrates 3, 4 are performed with proper intervals maintained between the substrates, and then the upper and lower substrates 3, 4 are stuck and the sealing resins are sufficiently pressed with the force of 1.5 tons via the upper and lower base plates. In this instance, it

is necessary to fix the upper and lower base plates 1,2 by vacuum absorption so that position alignment of the upper and lower substrates 3, 4 can be maintained, and also it is necessary to empty the absorption opening 51 formed at the elastic body 5, which is arranged between the lower substrate 4 and the lower base plate 2. The pitches of the absorption openings 51 formed at the elastic body 5, which were employed in assembling the fifth, sixth, and seventh pairs of color filter substrates, were respectively 10 mm, 6 mm, and 24 mm.

[0029] Next, the fifth to seventh pairs of substrates which have been completed of sticking, are withdrawn from the substrate sticking apparatus, and then hardening of the sealing resins 6 are performed by radiation of the ultra violet rays, and the periphery portions of the substrates are cut to thereby fabricate the liquid crystal panel. Thus, when the liquid crystal materials 8 have been dropped as water drops before the sticking of the substrates, it is possible to abridge the processes of vacuum injection, and closing of the injection opening (sealing of the opening).

[0030] Then, measurements of the cell gaps (100 points in the surface) of the first to seventh pairs of liquid crystal panels manufactured by the above stated process have been performed. Further, after mounting periphery circuits and displaying the panels, an estimation of the display uniformity is performed with naked eyes. The results obtained are represented in Table 1. The uniformity 3δ in the cell gaps represented in Table 1 is three times the standard deviation δ , supposing that the non-uniformity of the measured values is normal distribution in case of the cell gaps measurements.

[0031]

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Assembling	Pitch of the	Machining	Vacuum	Uniformity	Estimation
No. of pair	absorption	process	injection	(3δ) Of the	of display
of	opening in	or not after	/opening	cell gaps(µm)	uniformity
substrates	elastic	sticking	closing		with naked
	body(mm)		process or		eyes
			not		
1 .	Elastic body	Exist	Exist	0.21	0
`	none				
2	10	None	Exist	0.26	Δ~ο
3	6	None	Exist	0.21	0
4	24	None	Exist	0.20	0
5	10	None	None	0.28	0
6	6	None	None	0.20	0
7	24	None	None	0.22	0

o:good

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 Δ : non-uniformity does not exist in displaying the identical intervals of the pitches

[0032] As apparent from Table 1, in order to obtain identical degree of cell gap with the conventional manufacturing method for the first pair of substrates, as were the fourth and seventh pair of substrates, it is necessary for the pitch 52 of the absorption opening 51 formed at the elastic body 5, which is inserted between the lower substrate 4 and the lower base plate 4 to be n (n is integral number) times the pitch 22 of the absorption groove 21 of the lower base plate 2, and it is

necessary for the pitch 22 of the absorption opening 21 of the lower base plate 2 to be n (n is integral number) times the pitch 52 of the absorption opening 51 formed at the elastic body 5, that is, the pitch 52 of the absorption opening 51 formed at the elastic body 5 to be 1/n (n is integral number) times the pitch 22 of the absorption opening 21 of the lower base plate 2, as were the third and sixth pair of substrates.

[0033] When the pitch 52 of the absorption opening 51 formed at the elastic body 5 and the pitch 22 of the absorption opening 21 of the lower base plate 2 do not meet the above explained relationship, display inequality of the pitches will arise depending on the least common multiple selected from the pitch 52 of the absorption opening 51 and the pitch 22 of the absorption groove 21 (second pair and fifth pair of substrates). This is because gap inequality will arise from the addition of the dynamic interference, which is produced from the position relationship between the absorption opening of the elastic body 5 and the absorption groove 21 of the lower base plate 2, to the load applied to the upper and lower substrates 3, 4 at the time of pressurizing of the substrate sticking. However, the uniformity of the cell gaps can be achieved by overcoming the interference based on the design explained above.

[0034] As explained above, with regard to the substrate sticking process, the lower substrate 4 is absorbed to the lower base plate 2 via the elastic body 5 at which the absorption opening 51 is formed, the pitch 52 of the opening 51 being identical with n (n is integral number) times or 1/n (n is integral number) times the pitch 22 of the absorption groove 21 formed at the lower base plate 2, and performing position alignment of the upper and lower substrates 3, 4, and then the substrates are pressurized to be stuck by pressing the sealing resins 6 via the

upper and lower base plates 1, 2. Accordingly, although the planar machining degree of the upper and lower base plates 1, 2 is insufficient, since the upper and lower substrates 3, 4 can be stuck and pressurized simultaneously equally, it is not necessary to perform pressurizing process for press sealing resins required for the process following the conventional substrate sticking process to thereby achieve simplification of the manufacturing process, and to produce liquid crystal panel having uniform cell gaps.

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[0035] Further, as shown in FIG. 1 (c), when the absorption groove 21 formed at the lower base plate 2 has been arranged with the pitch 22 in the x direction (transversal direction), the absorption opening 52 of the elastic body 5 is arranged with the pitch 52 in the x direction (transversal direction), and the pitch 52 meets the relationship of n (n is integral number) times or 1/n times the pitch 22. In this case, although the pitch in the y direction (longitudinal direction) of the absorption opening 51 of the elastic body 5 may not be identical with the pitch 52 in the x direction, the absorption opening 51 is preferable to be arranged at equal pitch (equal intervals) in the y direction. In addition, it is possible to obtain the overlap between the absorption opening 51 of the elastic body 5 and the absorption groove 21 of the lower base plate 2 sufficiently by increasing the number of the absorption opening 51 in the elastic body 5 in practical, although the position of the absorption openings 51 are not particularly adjusted.

[0036] Whereas, when the absorption opening is formed at the lower base plate 2, and not the absorption groove 21, the absorption opening is aligned and arranged at equal pitch (equal intervals) in the x and y directions respectively together with the absorption opening 51 of the elastic body 5. In such case, the pitch 52 in the x direction of the absorption opening 51 formed at the elastic body

5 meets the relationship of n (n is integral number) times or 1/n times the pitch of the absorption groove 21 of the lower base plate 2, and the pitch in the y direction of the absorption opening 51 formed at the elastic body 5 meets the relationship of n (n is integral number) times or 1/n times the pitch in the y direction of the absorption opening formed at the lower base plate 2. Also, in such a case, it is possible to obtain the overlap between the absorption opening 51 of the elastic body 5 and the absorption opening of the lower base plate 2 sufficiently by increasing the number of the absorption opening 51 in the elastic body 5 in practical, although the position of the absorption openings 51 is not particularly adjusted.

[0037] Also, the absorption groove or absorption opening (not shown) should be formed at the absorption surface of the upper base plate 1 to absorb the upper substrate 3.

[0038] As stated above, the substrate sticking apparatus shown in FIG. 1 comprises an upper base plate 1 and a lower base plate 2, each being provided with an absorption groove or an absorption opening at the absorption surface thereof. Also, in the above apparatus, it is possible to maintain a distance between the upper and lower substrates absorbed to the upper and lower base plates 1, 2 respectively to be constant to thereby align them. In addition, the upper and lower substrates 3, 4 may be constructed to be pressurized with interposing the upper and the lower base plates 1, 2, and simultaneously an elastic body 5 with an absorption opening 51 is arranged on a substrate absorption surface of the lower base plate 2. Further, a pitch of the absorption opening 51 formed at the elastic body 5 is made to meet the above stated relationship.

[0039] In addition, the substrate sticking apparatus shown in FIG. 2 includes the substrate sticking apparatus shown in FIG. 1 in a chamber 9 wherein the inner pressure can be adjusted.

[0040] Further, in the present embodiment of the invention, although the elastic body 5 has been constructed of a silicon rubber, however as the elastic body 5, for example, it can also be made of dual layer structure elastic body disclosed in Japanese Patent Laid-Open Publication No. Hei 11-264991 (Japanese Patent application No. Hei 10-136924), which consists of a soft portion and a hard portion. Then, as explained in the above embodiment of the present invention, the absorption opening 51 is formed at the elastic body 5 so that the hard portion thereof can be contacted with the lower substrate 4 to improve the uniformity of the cell gap in the panel surface.

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[0041] Also, as shown in FIGs. 1 and 2, in the embodiment of the present invention, although the present invention has been explained in connection with the spacer particles 7 to be applied on the upper substrate 3, the spacer particles 7 can also be applied on the lower substrate 4. Further, instead of applying the spacer particles 7, photo-sensitive resins can be applied to form protrusion pattern by applying photo lithography technology or protrusion may be formed by printing the resins, on any one substrate of the upper and lower substrates 3,

[0042] In addition, as shown in FIG. 1, although the sealing resins 6 have been formed on the lower substrate 4 to attach the upper and lower substrates 3, 4 and seal the liquid crystal, they can also be formed on the upper substrate 3 instead of forming them on the lower substrate 4. However, it is preferable to form the

sealing resins 6 on the lower substrate 4 at which the liquid crystal materials 8 have been dropped, in case of FIG. 2.

[0043] Further, although the color filter substrate has been used as for the lower substrate 4 and the TFT array substrate 3 has been used as for the upper substrate 3 in the embodiment of the present invention, also the color filter substrate can be used as for the upper substrate 3 and the TFT array substrate 4 can be used for the lower substrate 4.

[0044]

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[Effects of the Invention]

As described above, according to the present invention, with regard to the substrate sticking process, the lower substrate is absorbed to the lower base plate via the elastic body at which the absorption opening is formed, the pitch of the opening being identical with n (n is integral number) times or 1/n times the pitch of the absorption groove or absorption opening formed at the lower base plate, and performing position alignment of the upper and lower substrates, and then the substrates are pressurized to be stuck by pressing the sealing resins via the upper and lower base plates. Accordingly, although the planar machining degree of the upper and lower base plates is insufficient, since the upper and lower substrates can be stuck and pressurized simultaneously uniformly, it is not necessary to perform pressurizing process for press the sealing resins required for the process following the conventional substrate sticking process to thereby achieve the simplification of the manufacturing process, and to produce liquid crystal panels having uniform cell gaps.

[Description of Drawings]

FIG. 1(a) is a schematic cross-sectional view showing a substrate sticking process in a method for manufacturing a liquid crystal panel according to the first embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 1(b) is a schematic planar view of an elastic body 5;

FIG. 1(c) is a schematic planar view of a lower base plate;

FIG. 2 is a schematic cross-sectional view showing a substrate sticking process in a method for manufacturing a liquid crystal panel according to the second embodiment of the present invention; and

FIG. 3is a conventional schematic cross-sectional view showing a substrate sticking process in a method for manufacturing a liquid crystal panel.

[Explanation of Numerals]

1: upper base plate 2: lower base plate

21: absorption groove formed at the lower base plate

22: pitch of the absorption groove in the lower base plate

3: upper

substrate 4: lower substrate

5: elastic body

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51: absorption opening of the elastic body

52: pitch of the absorption opening in the elastic body

7: spacer particle 8: liquid crystal materials

9: vacuum chamber

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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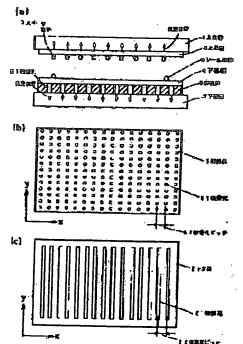
YAMADA SATOSHI MATSUKAWA HIDEKI

(54) MANUFACTURING METHOD FOR LIQUID CRYSTAL PANEL AND SUBSTRATE STICKING DEVICE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a manufacturing method for a liquid crystal panel, by which manufacturing stages can be simplified and to provide a substrate sticking device used for the method.

SOLUTION: In a substrate sticking stage, a lower substrate 4 is attracted to a lower surface plate 2 through an elastic body 5 in which attracting holes 51 are formed with a pitch 52 which is integral multiple of a pitch 22 of an attracting grooves 21 of the lower surface plate 2. After the positioning of an upper and a lower substrates 3 and 4 is performed, the substrates are stuck to each other by pressing the substrates through an upper surface plate 1 and the lower surface plate 2 to crush a sealing resin 6. Even if the surface working precision of



the upper and the lower surface plates 1 and 2 is insufficient, sticking and uniform pressing of the upper and the lower substrates 3 and 4 can be simultaneously performed and a pressing stage for crushing the sealing resin, which has been conventionally needed after the substrate sticking stage, is not required and the manufacturing stages can be simplified.

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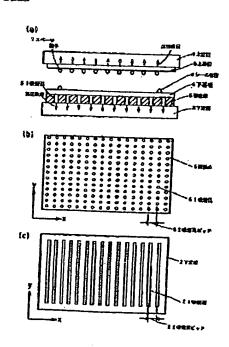
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(54)【発明の名称】 液陽パネルの製造方法および基板貼り合わせ経験

(57)【嬰約】

【課題】 従来、基板貼り合わせ工程では、上下定盤の平面加工特度が不十分であり、上下芸板を均一に加圧してシール制脂を押しつぶすために別途加圧工程が必要であった。

【解決手段】 善複貼り合わせ工程において、下定盤2 に、下定盤2の殴者滞21のピッチ22の整数倍のピッチ52で吸者孔51が形成された弾性体5を介して下基板4を吸者し、上下基板3、4の位置合わせを行った後、上定盤1および下定盤2を介して加圧しシール樹脂6を押しつぶして貼り合わせる。上下定盤1、2の平面加工結度が不十分であっても、上下差板3、4を貼り合わせと同時に均一に加圧することができ、基板貼り合わせ工程の後で従来必要であったシール樹脂を押しつぶすための加圧工程を不要とし、製造工程の簡略化が固れる。



【特許請求の毎囲】

【請求項1】 一対の基板のうちいずれかの基板に、前 記一句の基板を接着しかつ液晶を対止するためのシール 材料を塗布する工程と、

上側定盤および下側定盤を有する基板貼り合わせ鉄線を 用い、前記一句の基板のうち一方の草板を、前記下倒定 盤の吸音操または吸音孔が形成された吸音面に、吸音孔 が形成された弾性体を介して真空吸着させ、他方の基板 を前記上側定型の吸者面に真空吸者させた状態で、前記 一対の基板を対向させて位置合わせを行ない、前記上側 10 定盤および下側定盤を介して商記一対の基板を加圧し商 記シール材料を押しつぶして貼り合わせる基板貼り合わ せ工程とを含み、

前記弾性体の吸着孔のピッチは、前記草板貼り合わせ工 程において前記弾性体の吸着孔と前記下側定盤の吸着湯 または吸者孔との互いの位置関係で生じる力学的干渉に よる前記一対の華板への加圧むらを抑制するように、前 記下側定盤の吸着漢または吸者孔のピッチの整数倍また は整数分の1倍となっていることを特徴とする液晶パネ ルの製造方法。

【請求項2】 一対の基板のうちいずれかの基板に、前 記一対の基板を接着しかつ液晶を対止するためのシール 材料を塗布する工程と、

前記一対の基板のうち一方の基板に所定量の液晶材料を 湾下する工程と.

チャンパー内に上側定盤および下側定盤を有する芸板貼 り合わせ禁農を用い、前記一対の基板のうち前記波島材 料を滴下した一方の基板を、前記下側定盤の吸着潜きた。 は吸着孔が形成された吸着面に、吸着孔が形成された弾 **姓体を介して真空吸着させ、他方の基板を前記上側定盤 39** の吸着面に真空吸者させるとともに、前記チャンバー内 を前記基板の真空吸者よりも低い真空度に保持した状態 で、前記一対の墓板を対向させて位置合わせを行ない。 前記上側定盤および下側定盤を介して前記一対の基板を 加圧し前記シール材料を押しつぶして貼り合わせる基板 貼り合わせ工程とを含み、

前記弾性体の吸着孔のピッチは、前記基板貼り合わせ工 程において前記弾性体の吸着孔と前記下側定盤の吸者溢 または吸着孔との互いの位置関係で生じる力学的干渉に よる前記一対の墓板への加圧むらを抑謝するように、前 40 基板貼り合わせ装置を提供することである。 記下側定盤の吸着漢または吸者孔のピッチの整数倍また は整數分の1倍となっていることを特徴とする液晶パネ ルの製造方法。

【語求項3】 芸板貼り合わせ工程における上側定盤お よび下側定盤による基板の真空吸者の真空度をり、1× 1. 33322×101 Pa以下とし、真弦チャンパー 内の真立度を0.5×1.33322×10°Pa~ 1. 0×1. 33322×104 Paとすることを特徴 とする請求項2記載の液晶パネルの製造方法。

孔が形成された上側定盤および下側定盤を備え、前記上 側定型および下側定盤に吸着した一封の基板間を一定の 距解に保持して位置合わせ可能で、かつ前記上側定盤な よび下側定盤を介して前記一対の基板を加圧可能な機成 にするとともに、前記下側定盤の基板吸者面に吸着孔が 形成された弾性体を設置し、前記弾性体の吸着孔のビュ チは、前記下側定盤の収着消息たは吸着孔のピッチの整 数倍または整数分の1倍であることを特徴とする益複點 り合わせ慈麗。

【請求項5 】 内部圧力を調整可能なチャンパー内に、 前記上側定盤および前記弾性体を設置した下側定盤を設 けた語求項4記載の基板貼り合わせ鉄置。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】本発明は、液晶パネルの製造 方法およびそれに用いる墓板貼り合わせ慈麗に関する。 [00021

【従来の技術】図3に従来の液晶パネルの製造方法にお ける墓板貼り合わせ工程の概略断面図を示す。図3に示 29 すように、従来の液晶パネルでは、上下の定盤1、2に 上下の基板3、4を直接真空吸着させ、上下基板3、4 の位置合わせを行なった後に貼り合わせを行なってい te.

[00031

【発明が解決しようとする課題】液晶パネルに必要なセ ルギャッフ特度は一般に、TNパネルでは±0.3μm 以下、STNパネルでは±0、05μm以下であるが、 それに対して金属製の上下定盤1,2の平面加工結度は ±20μm程度しか期待できない。そのために、従来の 基飯貼り合わせ工程では上下基板3、4を均一に加圧す る事が不可能であり、必要なセルギャップ精度を得るた めには、上記の貼り合わせを行なった後に、明途準備し た創圧級を用いて上下基板3,4を均一に加圧して、シ ール樹脂6を所定量だけ押しつふす必要があった。この ように従来、墓板貼り合わせ工程の後、シール樹脂6を 均一に押しつぶすために、別途加圧工程が必要であっ

【り004】本発明の目的は、製造工程の節略化を図る ことができる液晶パネルの製造方法およびそれに用いる

[0005]

【課題を解決するための手段】請求項1記載の液晶パネ ルの製造方法は、一対の墓板のうちいずれかの墓板に、 一対の基板を接着しかつ液晶を対止するためのシール材 料を塗布する工程と、上側定盤および下側定盤を有する 基板貼り合わせ装置を用い、一対の基板のうち一方の基 板を、下側定型の吸者滞または吸者孔が形成された吸者 面に、吸者孔が形成された弾性体を介して真空吸着さ せ、他方の基板を上側定型の吸者面に真空吸者させた状 【語求項4】 それぞれ基板吸者面に吸者滞または吸者 59 嬢で、一対の基板を対向させて位置合わせを行ない、上

倒定盟および下側定盤を介して一対の豊板を加圧しシー ル材料を押しつぶして貼り合わせる意便貼り合わせ工程 とを含み、弾性体の吸者孔のピッチは、基板貼り合わせ 工程において弾性体の吸着孔と下側定型の吸者消または 吸着孔との互いの位属関係で生じる力学的干渉による一 対の菩抜への加圧むらを抑制するように、下側定型の吸 **者消または吸着孔のピッチの登数倍または登数分の1倍** となっていることを特徴とする。

【0008】この請求項1の製造方法によれば、芸板貼 体を介して基板を吸引し、位置合わせを行った後、一対 の墓板を加圧しシール材料を押しつぶして貼り合わせる ことにより、上側および下側定盤の平面加工指度が不十 分であっても、一対の基板を貼り合わせと同時に均一に 加圧することができ、基板貼り合わせ工程の後で従来必 要であったシール材料を押しつふすための加圧工程を不 要とし、製造工程の随略化を図ることができる。また、 弾性体の吸者孔のピッチを、下側定型の吸者湯または吸 者孔のピッチの整数倍または整数分の1倍のピッチとし たととにより、弾性体の吸着孔と下側定盤の吸着消息だ 29 は吸着孔との互いの位置関係で生じる方学的干渉による 一対の基板への加圧むらが抑制され、セルギャップの均 一な波鶥パネルを生産することができる。

【0007】語求項2記載の液晶パネルの製造方法は、 一対の基板のうちいずれかの基板に、一対の基板を接着 しかつ液晶を封止するためのシール材料を塗布する工程 と、一対の基板のうち一方の基板に所定費の液晶材料を 湾下する工程と、チャンパー内に上側定盤および下側定 盤を育する基板貼り合わせ装置を用い、一対の基板のう ち波晶材料を調下した一方の基板を、下側定盤の吸者操 30 または吸者孔が形成された吸者面に、吸者孔が形成され た弾性体を介して真空吸着させ、他方の基板を上側定盤 の吸着面に真空吸者させるとともに、チャンバー内を基 板の真空吸者よりも低い真空度に保持した状態で、一対 の墓板を対向させて位置合わせを行ない、上側定型およ び下側定盤を介して一対の墓板を加圧しシール行斜を押 しつぶして貼り合わせる墓板貼り合わせ工程とを含み、 弾性体の吸者孔のピッチは、基板貼り合わせ工程におい て弾性体の吸着孔と下側定型の吸着消または吸着孔との 互いの位置関係で生じる力学的干渉による一対の意板へ 49 の加圧むらを抑制するように、下側定盤の吸音消または 吸着孔のピッチの詮数倍または登数分の! 倍となってい ることを特徴とする。

【0008】との請求項2の製造方法によれば、墓板貼 り合わせ工程を、下側定盤に、吸着孔が形成された弾性 体を介して基板を吸者し、位置合わせを行った後、一対 の芸板を加圧しシール材料を押しつぶして貼り合わせる ことにより、上側および下側定盤の平面加工特度が不十 分であっても、一対の基板を貼り合わせと同時に均一に

要であったシール材料を押しつぶすための加圧工程を不 要とし、製造工程の箇略化を図ることができる。また、 弾性体の吸者孔のピッチを、下側定型の吸者滞または吸 **君孔のピッチの整数倍または整数分の1倍のピッチとし** たことにより、弾性体の吸着孔と下側定盤の吸着消息だ は吸着孔との互いの位置関係で生じる方学的干渉による 一対の基板への加圧むらが抑制され、セルギャップの均 一な家蟲パネルを生産するととができる。

【0009】請求項3記載の液區パネルの製造方法は、 り合わせ工程を、下側定型に、吸者孔が形成された理性 19 基板貼り合わせ工程における上側定型および下側定盤に よる菩板の真空吸者の真空度をO.1×1.33322 ×10° Pa以下とし、真空チャンバー内の真空度を 0. 5×1. 33322×104 Pa~1. 0×1. 3 3322×101 Paとすることを特徴とする。このよ うに真空度を設定することが好ましい。

> 【0010】諸求項4記載の基板貼り合わせ禁憲は、そ れぞれ基板吸着面に吸者消または吸着孔が形成された上 側定型および下側定盤を備え、上側定型および下側定盤 に吸着した一対の基板間を一定の距離に保持して位置合 わせ可能で、かつ上側定型および下側定盤を介して一対 の墓板を加圧可能な構成にするとともに、下側定盤の基 板吸着面に吸着孔が形成された弾性体を設置し、 弾性体 の吸着孔のピッチは、下側定盤の吸着潜または吸着孔の ピッチの登数倍または整数分の!倍であることを特徴と する。

【0011】この請求項4記載の基板貼り合わせ鉄蹬を 用いて、請求項1における墓板貼り合わせ工程を行うこ とができ、製造工程の館略化を図ることができる。

【0012】請求項5記載の基板貼り合わせ基置は、請 求項4記載の基板貼り合わせ装置において、内部圧力を 調整可能なチャンパー内に、上側定型および弾性体を設 置した下側定盤を設けたものである。

【0013】この請求項5記載の基板貼り合わせ装置を 用いて、請求項2.3における基板貼り合わせ工程を行 うことができ、製造工程の簡略化を図ることができる。 [0014]

【発明の実施の形態】本発明の実施の形態について、図 面を参照しながら説明する。図1は本発明の第1の液晶 パネルの製造方法における墓板貼り合わせ工程の概略図 であり、図1 (a) は断面図、図1 (b) は弾性体5の 平面図、図1(c)は下定型2の平面図を示す。図2は 本発明の第2の液晶パネルの製造方法における芸板貼り 台わせ工程を示す復昭断面図である。図1は液晶の充填 を真空注入法により行う場合であり、図2は液晶減下法 により行う場合である。

【0015】以下では、10.4インチアモルファスシ リコンTF T液晶パネルを条件を変えて7組試作し、比 较を行なった。

【0016】まず、大きさが300mm×400mmで 加圧することができ、基板貼り合わせ工程の後で従来必 50 10.4インチのパネルが2面パターンニングされた丁

FTアレイ基板とカラーフィルタ基板を7組準備し、そ れぞれの基板に、洗浄、ポリイミド製の配向膜の形成、 硬化、所定のラビング処理を行なった。

【0017】次にアレイ墓板側に粒径4、5μmの樹脂 親スペーザ粒子?を1平方ミリメートル当たり100~ 200個の割合で敵布し、カラーフィルを倒には、繊維 径5. 5 u mのガラス繊維を2. 0%混入した繋外線硬 化型のシール樹脂6を、スクリーン印刷法を用いてパケ ーン形成した。との時、第1組から第4組のカラーフィ ルタ基板には注入口のあるパターンを、第5組から第7 10 組のカラーフィルタ基板には注入口の無いパターンをそ れぞれ形成した。

【0018】 これら7組のアレイ基板とカラーフィルタ 基板を用いて、以下のように貼り合わせを行なった。

【0019】まず、第1組は従来の製造方法を用いて貼 り合わせを行なった。図3に示すように、カラーフィル **ヶ葉板を下基板4として下定盤2に、アレイ基板を上基** 板3として上定型1に真空吸者して、上下基板3、4を 一定の距離に保持して位置合わせ(アライメント)を行 なった後に上下墓板3,4を貼り合わせた。

【0020】次に上記の貼り合わせ済み基板を、整板貼 り合わせ装置から取り出し、真空パック (加圧工程) を 施してシール樹脂8を押しつぶした後に、紫外線照射に よるシール制脂6の硬化を行なった。

【0021】第2組から第4組は、図1(a)に示すよ うに、基板貼り合わせ装置の下定盤2と下基板4間に弾 性体5を挿入して貼り合わせを行なった。 ここで、 厚さ が1. 2mmで、図1 (b) に示す吸着孔51のビッチ 52が6mm、10mm、24mmの、3通りのシリコ ンゴムからなる弾性体5を準備した。なお、ここで用い 39 た墓板貼り台わせ装置の下定盤2の吸着湯21のピッチ 22は12mmであった。以下詳しく説明する。

【0022】カラーフィルタ基板を下基板4として予め 準備した弾性体5を介して下定盤(下側定盤)2に、ア レイ葉板を上葉板3として上定盤(上側定盤) 1にそれ ぞれ真空吸者して、上下華板3。4を一定の距解に保持 して位置合わせ(アライメント)を行なった後に、上下 基板3,4を貼り合わせ、上下定盤1、2を介して1. 5トンで加圧してシール樹脂6を十分に押しつぶした。 この時、上下草板3,4の位置合わせがずれないよう に、上下定盤1、2の真空吸者による固定が必要であ り、そのために下基板4と下定盤2間に設置した弾性体 5に吸者孔51を受けておく必要がある。第2組、第3 組、第4組の組立てに用いた弾性体5の吸者孔51のピ ッチ52はそれぞれ、10mm、6mm、24mmであ った。

【0023】次に上記の貼り合わせ済み基板(第2組か ち第4組)を、基板貼り合わせ装置から取り出し、紫外 規照射によるシール樹脂6の硬化を行なった。

基板の周辺部分を切断した後、真空注入法を用いて液晶 材料を充填し、注入口を封止して液晶パネルを作製し K.

【0025】また、第5組から第7組は、図2に示すよ うに、予めカラーフィルタ芸板に放風材料8を適下した 後に、第2組から第4組と同様に、菩擬貼り合わせ装置 の下定盤2と下芸板4間に弾性体5を挿入して貼り合わ せを行なった。以下、詳しく説明する。なお、図2にお ける弾性体5、下定盤2の平面図は、図1(b). (c) と同じである。

【0028】予め液晶材料8を滴下したカラーフィルタ 基板を下基板4として弾性体5を介して下定盤2に、ア レイ芸板を上芸板3として上定盤1にそれぞれ真空吸者 して、真空チャンバー9内の真空度が0.5×1.33 322×10' Pa~1. 0×1. 33322×10' Paになるまで真空引きを行なった。との時、上下定盤 1、2による星板の真空吸着の真空度は、0.1×1. 33322×10' Pa以下であった。

【0027】ととで、真空チャンバー9内の真空度が 0.5×1.33322×10 Pa未満の場合には、 上華仮3と上定盟1との真空吸者力が不十分になった り、下基板4と弾性体5を介しての下定盤2との真空吸 者方が不十分になったりして、上基仮3の落下やアライ メントずれが発生する。また、真空チャンパー9内の真 空度が1. 0×1. 33322×10; Paを超えた場 台には、作製された液晶パネル内に気泡が残ってしま う。また、上下定盤1,2による基板の真空吸着の真空 度が0.1×1.33322×10 Paを超えると、 上華板3と上定盤1との真空吸者力。または下葉板4と 弾性体5を介しての下定盤2との真空吸者力が不十分に なり、前述同様、上基板3の落下やアライメントずれが 発生する。この上下定盤1.2による墓板の真空吸着の 兵空度は、OPaに近い程好ましく。担益的にはOPa が最良であるが、実際は、ポンプ納涼区と真空系の設計 により可能な真空度の腰界があり、本実施の形態では、 0. 05×1. 33322×10 Pa程度が展界であ った。また、本実施の形態では、弾性体5にシリコンゴ ムを用いている。多孔質の弾性体では孔の膨張があり、 使用できない。また、紙や弾性率の高いもの(硬いも 49. の) は加圧が不均一になり好ましくなく、弾性体5とし ては弾性室の小さいものほど好ましいと考えられる。

【0028】前途した真空度で真空チャンパー9内を保 持しながら、上下基板3.4を一定の距離に保持して位 置合わせ(アライメント)を行なった後に、上下墓板 3、4を貼り合わせ、上下定盤1,2を介して1.5ト ンで加圧してシール街路6を十分に押しつぶした。この 時、上下基板3、4の位置合わせがずれないように、上 下定型1,2の真空吸者による固定が必要であり、その ために下基板4と下定盤2間に設置した弾性体5に吸音 【0024】これち第1組から第4組の貼り合わせ済み 50 孔51を空けておく必要がある。第5組、第6組、第7

[典1]

3

組の組立てに用いた神栓体5の吸着孔51のピッチ52はそれぞれ、10mm、6mm、24mmであった。【0029】次に上記の貼り合わせ薄み基板(第5組から第7組)を、基板貼り合わせ葉屋から取り出し、紫外線照射によるシール制廠6の硬化を行ない、さらに、基板の周辺部分を切断して、渡墨パネルを作製した。このように、基板貼り合わせ前に予め液晶計料8を適下した場合には、真空注入、往入口の対止(封口)工程を省略する事ができる。

*【0030】以上のように作製した第1組から第7組の 液晶パネルのセルギャップ測定(面内100点)を行なった。さらに周辺回路を実験し、パネル表示を行なって 表示の均一位の目視評価を実施した。これらの結果を表 1に示す。表1のセルギャップ均一性の3のは、上記セルギャップ測定における測定値のばらつきを正規分布と 推定し、その複準備差のの3倍値である。 【0031】

		[32]		
学性体の 吸着孔ピッチ (mm) 学性体なり	加圧工程の 有無	封口工程の 有船	均一性 3 c (µm)	表示的一性 の目規評価
		1119	0. 21	0
10	無し	存り	0. 26	000
6	短し	有り	0. 21	0
2 4	無し	存り	0.20	0
10	無し	無し	0. 28	Δ
6	無し	無し	0. 20	0
24	無し	無し	0. 22	-
	吸着ルピッチ (mm) 浮性体なし 10 8 24	吸着孔ピッチ (mm) 加圧工程の 有無 学性体なし 有り 有り 10 然し 然し 24 無し 無し 10 無し	吸着孔ピッチ (mm) 有無 有無 有別 存的 有り 10 無し 有り 8 無し 有り 10 無し 有り 10 無し 無し 10 無し 無し 24 無し 無し 24 無し 無し	吸着れビッチ (mm) 加圧工程の 有無 対口工程の 有無 3 c (μm) 弾性体なし 有り 有り 0.21 10 無し 有り 0.26 3 点し 有り 0.21 24 無し 行り 0.20 10 無し 無し 0.20 24 無し 無し 0.20

[夜示均一性の目視評価]

〇 …良好

△ …60mmピッチの等間隔の表示むら有り

【0032】 衰1から明らかなように、第1組の従来工法と同等のセルギャップ信度を得るためには、第4組および第7組のように、下芸飯4と下定盤2間に挿入する再性体5の吸着孔51のビッチ52が、下定盤2の吸着滞21のビッチ22の整致倍となっているか、第3組および第6組のように、下定盤2の収着滞21のビッチ22が伴性体5の吸者孔51のビッチ52の整数倍、すなわち、現性体5の吸者孔51のビッチ52が下定盤2の収着滞21のビッチ22の整数分の1倍となっている字が必要である。

【0033】弾性体5の咳若孔ピッチ52と下定盤2の 吸着溝ピッチ22が、上記の関係を満たしていない場合 には、吸者孔ピッチ52と吸者溝ピッチ22の最小公倍 数に対応したピッチの表示ムラが発生する(第2組、第 5組)。これは、弾性体5の吸音孔51と下定盤2の吸 音溝21との互いの位置関係で生じる方学的干渉が、基 板貼5合わせの側圧時に上下基板3、4に付加される筒 重に反映され、ギャッフむらとなるからであって、上記 のような設計にする字によって、干渉を回避する事ができる。 セルギャップを均一にする字ができる。 【0034】以上のように、基板貼り合わせ工程において、下定盤2に、下定盤2の吸者滞21のピッチ22の を致信または整数分の1倍(整数は1、2、3、・・・)のピッチ52で収録孔51が形成された初けけ5を

)のピッチ52で吸着孔51が形成された弾性体5を介して下基板4を吸着し、上下基板3、4の位置合わせを行った後、上定盤1および下定盤2を介して順圧しシール問版6を押しつぶして貼り合わせることにより、上下定盤1、2の平面加工請度が不十分であっても、上下 基板3、4を貼り合わせと同時に均一に加圧することができ、基板貼り合わせ工程の後で従来必要であったシール問題を押しつぶすための加圧工程を不要とし、設造工程の簡略化を図ることができ、セルギャップの均一な液 最バネルを生産することができる。

【0035】なお、図1(c)のように下定盤2に吸者 滞21が×方向(構方向)にピッチ22で配置されている場合、弾性体5の吸者孔51は×方向(構方向)にピッチ52で配置され、そのピッチ52がピッチ22の登 数倍または登数分の1倍の関係を満たすようにする。この場合、弾性体5の吸者孔51のソ方向(縦方向)のピッチ62と同じでも異なってあって もよいが、吸着孔51はy方向にも等ビッチ(あるいは 等間隔)で配置されているようにする。またこの場合、 実際の過用では、神性体5の吸着孔51の数を多くする ことにより、特に位置の調整をしなくても、神性体5の 吸着孔51と下定盤2の吸着滞21との重なりは十分に 得られる。

【0036】一方、下定型2に、吸着消21ではなく吸者孔が設けられている場合。その吸着孔は、弾性体5の吸着孔51のようにx方向、y方向のそれぞれの方向について等ピッチ(あるいは等間隔)で整列して設けられ 19 る。この場合。弾性体5の吸者孔51のx方向のピッチ52が、下定型2の吸者孔のx方向のピッチの整致倍支たは整数分の1倍の関係を満たし、かつ、弾性体5の吸者孔51のy方向のピッチが、下定型2の吸者孔のy方向のピッチの整致倍支たは整数分の1倍の関係を満たすようにする。またこの場合も、実限の運用では、弾性体5の吸者孔51の数を多くすることにより、特に位置の調整をしなくても、弾性体5の吸者孔51と下定型2の吸者孔との重なりは十分に得られる。

【0037】なお、上定盤1には、上差板3を吸着する 26 面に、上基板3を吸着するための吸着溝または吸着孔 (図示せず)が設けられている。

【0038】図1の場合の基板貼り合わせ整置は、前述のようにそれぞれ基板吸着面に吸者消または吸着孔が形成された上定盤1 および下定盤2を構え、上定盤1 および下定盤2 に吸着した上下の基板3、4 間を一定の距離に原持して位置合わせ可能で、かつ上定盤1 および下定盤2を介して上下の基板3、4を加圧可能な機成であるとともに、下定盤2の基板吸着面に吸着孔51が形成された弾性体5を設置し、弾性体5の吸着孔51のビッチを前述の関係を満たすように設定したものである。

【0039】また、図2の場合の基板貼り合わせ装置は、内部圧力を調整可能なチャンバー9内に、図1における差板貼り合わせ装置の情域を設けたものである。

【0040】なお、本実緒の形態では、習性体5をシリコンゴムで構成したものとしたが、弾性体5として、例えば、特関平11-264991号公報(特膜平10-136924号)にあるように、柔軟部と関体部からなる2層構造のものを用い、それに本実施の形態のように吸着孔51を設け、その柔軟部が下定型2と接し、関体49部が下基板4と接するように設置することにより、パネル面内のセルギャップ均一性を更に向上することができる。

【0041】また、本実能の形態では、図1、図2のように、セルギャップを規定するためのスペーザ位子7を上益板3側に設布する場合について説明したが、上基板3側ではなく、下基板4側に設布するようにしてもよい。また、スペーザ粒子7を設布する代わりに、上基板3と下基板4のどちらか一方の基板に、原光性樹脂を塗

布して突起のバターンをフォトリッグラフィ技術を適用 して形成したり、あるいは樹脂を印刷して突起を設けて もよい。

【0042】また、図1のように、上下基板3、4を接着しかつ液晶を封止するためのシール樹崎6を下登板4に形成したが、下基板4ではなく、上登板3に形成するようにしてもよい。しかしながら、図2の場合、液晶材料8を論下する下基板4にシール樹脂6を形成しておいた方が好ましい。

【9043】また、本真館の形態では、カラーフィルタ 基板を下基板4とし、TFTアレイ芸板を上基板3とし たが、それとは逆に、カラーフィルタ芸板を上基板3と し、TFTアレイ基板を下芸板4として6よい。

[0044]

【発明の効果】以上のように本発明によれば、芸飯貼り合わせ工程において、下側定盤に、下側定盤の吸着深または吸着孔のビッチの受致信または整数分の1倍のビッチの吸着孔が形成された弾性体を介して基板を吸着し、一対の基板の位置合わせを行った後、上側定盤および下側定盤を介して一対の基板を加圧しンール材料を押しつぶして貼り合わせることにより、上側および下側定盤の平面加工精度が不十分であっても、一対の基板を貼り合わせと同時に均一に加圧することができ、基板貼り合わせ工程の後で従来必要であったシール材料を押しつぶずための加圧工程を不要とし、製造工程の簡略化を図ることができ、セルギャップの均一な液晶パネルを生産することができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

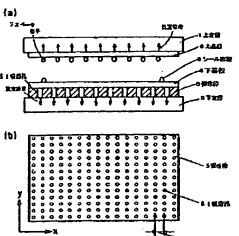
【図1】(a) は本発明の第1の液晶パネルの製造方法 における基板貼り台わせ工程を示す概略断面図。(b) は弾性体の概略平面図。(c)は下定盤の微略平面図 【図2】本発明の第2の激晶パネルの製造方法における 基板貼り台わせ工程を示す概略断面図

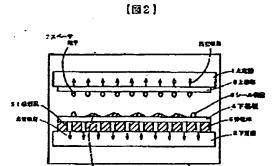
【図3】従来の液晶パネルの製造方法における基板貼り 合わせ工程を示す機略筋面図

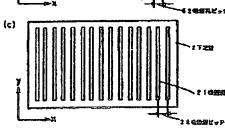
【符号の説明】

- 1 上定登
- 2 下定盤
- 21 下定盤の吸岩操
- 22 下定盤の吸音操のビッチ
- 3 上基板
- 4. 下基板
- 5 弹性体
- 51 弾性体の吸音孔
- 52 弾性体の吸着孔のビッチ
- 6 シール領艦
- 7 スペーザ粒子
- 8 遊島材料
- 9 真空チャンバー

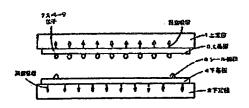








[図3]



フロントページの続き

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